

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Division of Emergency Operations



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 28, 2011

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### Update on Harford County's Recovery Efforts from Hurricane Irene

(Bel Air, MD) - - Harford County continues its recovery efforts from Hurricane Irene, and the county's emergency shelter at Patterson Mill Middle/High School (85 Patterson Mill Road, Bel Air) remains open for county residents who wish to use it. However, pets will no longer be accepted at the facility.

As of 7:00 PM on Sunday, there were 80 sections of county-maintained roads that were closed. Another 43 roads that had been closed had been cleared and reopened. County highways crews are working diligently to clear roads, and an updated listing of the status of county roads is available at [www.harfordcountymd.gov/alerts/RoadStatus.cfm](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/alerts/RoadStatus.cfm).

Also as of 7:00 PM, utility companies are reporting over 50,000 customers in Harford County without power. Utility crews are in the field working to restore power as quickly as possible. However given the large amount of homes and businesses without power, utility companies are advising that it may take a number of days before all power is restored.

At least 20 structures were reported as sustaining significant damage from falling debris. The Harford County Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits (DILP) has been performing structural assessments determine whether the structures are habitable.

The most severe damage to a residence appears to have occurred in the 2200 block of Castleton Road in Darlington, where a dwelling was destroyed by fire that resulted from a fallen tree. Two volunteer firefighters and one EMS technician sustained minor injuries and were treated at the scene.

For safety reasons and to allow utility crews to perform their work, Harford County residents are asked to stay off the roads today unless absolutely necessary. If travel is necessary, drivers are reminded to treat intersections with malfunctioning traffic signals as four-way stops. Also, residents using generators are advised to ensure that there is adequate ventilation so as to negate the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

( more )

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Due to the fact that there remains widespread power outages as a result of Hurricane Irene, as well as a number of county roads that remain closed, Harford County Government offices will be closed Monday, August 29, 2011. Critical employees must report for work as scheduled. Employees of the Office of Information and Communication Technology should report for work unless informed otherwise.

Harford Transit Link bus services will operate as normal on Monday.

The Harford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains activated to coordinate recovery in the aftermath of the storm. On Monday, County Executive David R. Craig will announce plans for opening five drop-off locations around the county where residents can dispose of tree debris.

For more information on Harford County's recovery from Hurricane Irene, visit the county's website at [www.harfordcountymd.gov](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov).